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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,228	01/27/2004	Jeffrey Arthur Nelson	16663-US	1766

7590

02/07/2005

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EXAMINER

MAMMEN, NATHAN SCOTT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3671

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/765,228	NELSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nathan S Mammen	3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/27/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-9, 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,732,941 to Deiss.

The Deiss '941 patent discloses a spreader for a cleaning shoe (19). The spreader comprises a panel having an inner edge (42) and an outer edge (41). The inner edge (42) has a mounting assembly, and the outer edge (41) inherently has a weight. The cleaning shoe has a frame (19) with sidewalls (20) and a sieve (17) supported on the frame. The spreaders (41) are mounted to and extend from the sidewalls. The spreaders move back and forth and can do so during movement of the frame.

Regarding claims 2, 9: The panels (41) of the spreaders have an inherent flexibility due to the nature of the material from which they are constructed.

Regarding claims 3, 4, 6-8, 16-20: The panels extend downstream at an acute angle between 30 and 60 degrees (see Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 21: The sieve is a chaffer sieve.

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,367,496 to Cockle et al.

Art Unit: 3671

The Cockle '496 patent discloses a spreader for a cleaning shoe (14). The spreader comprises a panel (66) having an inner (74) mounting assembly and an outer weighted (inherently) edge (68). The panel is flexible and resilient (it's constructed of sheet metal), and it extends downstream at an acute angle (see Fig. 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,732,941 to Deiss in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,875,889 to Hagerer et al., cited by Applicant.

The Deiss '941 patent discloses the claimed invention, as stated in paragraph 2 above, except for the sieve having longitudinally extending dividers located between and parallel to the sidewalls. The Hagerer '889 patent teaches that it is known in the art to provide a sieve with longitudinally extending dividers (34). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the sieve of the Deiss '941 patent with the longitudinally extending dividers as taught by the Hagerer '889 patent in order to further prevent lateral movement of crop material when the harvesting machine is operating on a slope.

Conclusion

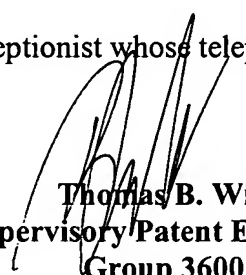
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 3671

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan Mammen whose telephone number is (703) 306-5959. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will, can be reached at (703) 308-3870. The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-1113.



Thomas B. Will
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600

NSM
1/27/05

Nathan S. Mammen